

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING
November 26, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 25:31-46)

Jesus said to his disciples:... *“the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ and the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*

Reflection:

Christ exercises his sovereignty, his kingship, in the right to judge. The basis for his judgment of us is whether we care for the least of our brothers and sisters. Growth in discipleship and living the paschal mystery is measured by the extent to which we look upon the other as Christ, loving that person as Christ, doing for that person as Christ. This is how we come to joy. This is how we “share in the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.” Think about it: from the first moment of creation, God planned for us to share in God’s everlasting life and joy. (Living Liturgy, p. 280)

Vincentian Meditation:

Frederic wrote to Father Pendola of Tuscany, who had just started a Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, desiring that the young be introduced to the living reality of Christ in the world: “You have amongst your children many who are rich, Reverend Father-oh! What a salutary lesson, how strengthening for those soft young hearts, to show them the poor, to show them Jesus Christ, not in pictures painted by great masters or on altars resplendent with gold and light, but to show them Jesus Christ and His wounds in the person of the poor!” (Ramson, Praying with Frederic, p.96)

Discussion: *(Share thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence)*

How can we better “strengthen soft young hearts by showing them the poor and showing them Jesus Christ and His wounds in the person of the poor”-so that they will also hear the words “whatever you did to the least of mine, you did for me”?

Closing Prayer:

Let us pray to Christ our King, source of compassion and love,
-**heal the sick, comfort the dying, and bring peace to all who have lost hope.**
For the wisdom to recognize God’s hand and holiness in each person and event,
-**serving God in the least of my brothers and sisters.**
That we may have the courage to work untiringly for peace and justice,
-**may your kingdom come! Amen**

